



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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## CALIF. PRIMARY RESULTS

Editor's note: Next week we'll do one of your favorite columns, *Calpeek's Winners & Losers*. And we'll provide more analysis. For now, here are the results and some preliminary analysis about the Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> Calif. primary...

### OVERVIEW & TRENDS

- **Voter Turnout** – The CA Secretary of State office estimates 7.8 million voters turned out to vote in Calif.'s Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> primary. That's about 53%...

- **Absentee Ballots** – Casting ballots via mail (VBM) again accounted for about 25% of the total votes cast on election day. As of Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> (a.m.) there were still some 700,000 to 800,000 uncounted ballots statewide. There's only one race where the outcome is unclear: **Prop. 26**...

- **Sacramento is a Bellwether County** – Always has been in the past and Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> was no exception...

- **Newspaper Endorsements** – Are they important or *impotent*? Most newspaper editorials went **NO** on Props. 21 and 22. Both won. Most newspapers went **YES** on Props. 30/31. They lost. (FYI: most newspapers also went **YES** on 26 and at this point, it's losing)...

- **Slate Power** – 10 years ago there were only 8-10 slates and if you had the money to get on one of them, it meant something. Too many slates today, but just about all of them went **NO** on **Prop. 25** – campaign reform...

- **Millionaire Mischief Makers** – All of the *deep pocketed* millionaires who sponsored initiatives **LOST**. A long night for **Ron Unz** (25), **Ned Roscoe** (28) and **Alan Shugar** (23)...

### THE WHITE HOUSE

... Given what had happened the previous week – and looking at the polling data, Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> in Calif. and the rest of the nat-

ion *wasn't* a shocker except in the magnitude of the wins by Demo VP **Al Gore** and Gov. **George W. Bush** (R-Texas). There is very little doubt now that it will be a Gore vs. Bush November 7<sup>th</sup> face off...

... And the doomsday scenario where Bush takes the winner-take-all 162 delegates, but loses the "blanket" primary to his GOP rival, U.S. Sen. **John McCain**, never happened. Here's what the blanket primary looked like: Gore 34.5%, Bush 28.3%, McCain 23.3% and former U.S. Sen. **Bill Bradley** (D) 8.5%. FYI: some sources believe that McCain didn't fair as well in the beauty contest because organized labor did a massive GOTV/education effort for Gore and against both McCain and Bush. Sources believe that about 35% of union members are either GOPers or DTS (decline to state). DTS voters cast 30.8% of their ballots for Gore; 28.5% for McCain and 21% for Bush...

... Among Demo voters, 81.3% sided with Gore vs. 18.1% for Bradley. On the GOP side, 60.2% were for Bush vs. 35.1% for McCain. Like **Calpeek** said last week, McCain made a huge mistake in carpet bombing the *religious right* – AKA **Pat Robertson & Co.** It cost him not only in Calif., but in New York and Ohio too...

### U.S. SENATE PRIMARY

... No surprises here at all, as U.S. Sen. **Dianne Feinstein** (D) got 51.4% of the open primary vote to lead all her rivals. DiFi also captured 95.4% of the Demo vote. The GOP winner was U.S. Rep. **Tom Campbell** of San Jose, who got 23.0% in the open primary and captured 56.2% of the base Republican vote. State Sen. **Ray Haynes** of Riverside got 22.5% of the GOP vote, while San Diego Co. Sup. **Bill Horn** got 15% of the Republican vote...

### U.S. HOUSE PRIMARIES

☒ **15<sup>th</sup> CD** – There was never any doubt that Assemblyman **Jim Cunneen** would be the GOP nominee in this open seat primary. The only question was which Demo would Cunneen face: *deep pocketed* businessman **Bill Peacock** or

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Demo Assemblyman Mike Honda. Peacock outspent Honda by about 3-1, but a last minute mailer signed by President Bill Clinton did the trick for Honda and he won by a 66.8% to 23.7% margin among Demo voters. In the open primary, Honda led with 39.6% to 33.0% for Cunneen...

☒ **31<sup>st</sup> CD** – U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez(D) is political history, as State Sen. Hilda Solis(D) coasted to an easier than expected win to oust this back bencher who was first elected in 1982. Solis got 68.8% of the Demo vote vs. just 31.2% for Martinez. Since this is a very heavy Demo registration CD, Solis is a slam dunk in November. FYI: Hilda's arch-enemy, former Demo Assemblywoman Diane Martinez(daughter of Marty), announced 3/8 that she would run for Solis' 24<sup>th</sup> SD seat when it is vacated. Hummm...

☒ **48<sup>th</sup> CD** – Looks very much like *deep pocketed* San Diego businessman Darrell Issa(R) will be the next congressman from this Northern San Diego/Southern Orange Co. district. Issa won 45.5% of the GOP vote to defeat his nearest GOP rival, State Sen. Bill Morrow, who got 30.2%. A young Mark Dornan (B-1's son) got 6.5% to finish 3<sup>rd</sup>...

☒ **38<sup>th</sup> CD** – Looks like U.S. Rep. Steve Horn(R-Long Beach) will have a slam dunk reelection in November. In the Demo primary, Gerrie Schipske upset favorite Erin Gruwell. Schipske got 31.8% of the Demo vote vs. 29.4% for Gruwell. Peter Mathews got 25.5%...

### **THE INITIATIVES**

...There were no real shocks among the 8 initiatives and 3 referendums on the Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. All of the ballot measures put up by the legislature won – Props. 17, 18, 19 and 20. And bond measures 12, 13, 14 & 16 also passed. No surprise on 1-A: Indian gaming won with 64.6% after spending \$20-30 million on tv, slates, direct mail, etc. And no shock that Prop. 23 (none of the above), Prop. 28 (repeal of Prop. 10) and Props. 30/31(auto insurance) lost big. Here is a brief look at the other hot initiatives...

◆ **Prop. 22** – All along the polling showed opposition to this initiative to ban same sex marriage running at about 38-39%. And that's what the NO on Knight side ended up with: 38.6%. The YES side won with 61.4%, meaning most if not all of the undecided voters went YES. Most Demo elected leaders were NO on 22, including Gov. Gray Davis and President Bill Clinton, who in 1996 signed the Defense of Marriage Act(DOMA). Despite the win, Prop. 22 doesn't mean anything since there are no states at present which perform same sex marriage...

◆ **Prop. 21** – This was former Gov. Pete Wilson's juvenile crime initiative and it won big: 62% YES vs. 38% NO. Regardless, 70-75% of what's in Prop. 21 is already on the books in Calif. The bigger problem is that in order to implement some of the juvenile crime provisions in 21, the State will have come up with a huge amount of money to hire new juvenile probation officers and build new juvenile facilities...

◆ **Prop. 26** – With 700,000 to 800,000 A/V ballots still uncounted, the NO side (at deadline time) held a 154,325 vote margin over the YES side. This is the initiative to lower the voting requirement from 2/3rds to 50% to pass a local school bond. YES is at 48.8% vs. NO at 51.2%. The big brouhaha over this initiative involves John McGraw, chair of CA Republican Party, who took \$50,000 from the YES side to not take a position on the CRP's slate mailer. The CRP's official position was NO on 26. When conservatives discovered the deal, they went nuts, ditto the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. The CRP says the HJTA turned down an offer to be on the slate, but that's not the story the HJTA tells. Anyway, because of all the criticism, McGraw returned the \$\$ to the YES on 26 committee, making the screw up even worse. And since it was too late to change the slate, Prop. 26 was left blank on the GOP mailer. FYI: there's a special CRP Board meeting April 8<sup>th</sup>. Will McGraw be rebuked or get the *Buffoon Award*? Or maybe both...

◆ **Prop. 25** – This campaign reform measure lost by a very wide margin: 64.6% NO vs. 35.4% YES. Key reasons for the loss: partial public funding of elections, no ban on soft \$\$ to political parties. As Calpeek readers know, the YES side got a very late \$1 million contribution from *deep pocketed* Max Palevsky. The original plan was to have CA Common Cause leader Jim Knox do a tv/radio spot if the \$\$\$ showed up. When Palevsky entered the picture, he attached some strings. He wanted to produce the ad in L.A. using consultant Bill Zimmerman – thus lead consultant Leo McElroy was out. And Palevsky also wanted actor Warren Beatty to do the spot. For whatever reason, Beatty didn't do it and so Prop. 25 sponsor Ron Unz was the guy on camera. This was the millionaire sponsor of 25 complaining about all the "corrupting millions" in politics. It didn't sell...

### **LEGISLATIVE PRIMARIES**

☒ **32<sup>nd</sup> SD Special** – No shock here. Demo Assemblywoman Nell Soto of Pomona crushed Rancho Cucamonga businessman Rob Guzman(R) by a 56.86% vs. 43.14% margin. So the 32<sup>nd</sup> SD remains in Demo hands...

☒ **1<sup>st</sup> SD** – GOP Assemblyman Rico Oller swamped the competition, including lobbyist Skip Daum. Oller got 47.5%

vs. just 8.9% for Daum. GOper Mary Andrews finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to Oller with 26.9%. Bottomline: Oller's dogs can hunt, Skip's can't...

☒ **19<sup>th</sup> SD** – GOP Assemblyman Tom McClintock just crushed Ventura Co. Sup. Judy Mikels – 75% to 25%, despite some last minute funding for Mikels...

☒ **21<sup>st</sup> SD** – Demo Assemblyman Jack Scott bested his colleague Scott Wildman in Sen. Adam Schiff's SD by a 53.3% vs. 46.7% margin among Demo voters. Scott will face GOper Paul Zee in November...

☒ **23<sup>rd</sup> SD** – In this open seat battle between Democratic Assemblymembers Sheila Kuehl and Wally Knox, Kuehl just walked all over Knox. Kuehl 63.6% vs. 36.4% for Knox. Not even close in this very costly primary...

☒ **25<sup>th</sup> SD** – Demo Assemblymembers Ed Vincent and Dick Floyd squared off in this open seat primary and Vincent won big with 70.2% vs. 29.8% for Floyd...

☒ **6<sup>th</sup> AD** – In this heavy Demo AD, activist Joe Nation won over a field of 7 others Demos. He won with 26.7% of the Demo vote. Carole Hayashino was 2<sup>nd</sup> with 23.7%...

☒ **17<sup>th</sup> AD** – In this open AD, Demo Barbara Matthews will battle GOper Greg Aghazarian. Matthews defeated Tom Montes by a 46.8% to 33% margin, while Agahazarian won the GOP primary over 3 rivals with 42.1%. Rick Veldstra was 2<sup>nd</sup> on the GOP side with 26.9%...

☒ **24<sup>th</sup> AD** – It will be GOper Sue Jackson (42.7% of the GOP vote) vs. Demo Rebecca Cohn (77.2% of the Demo vote) for this open AD which is currently in GOP hands. Jackson defeated Steve Blanton in a rather bitter primary...

☒ **28<sup>th</sup> AD** – For 6 years Demos have been trying to recapture this district. Monterey Co. Sup. Simon Salinas(D) won the Demo primary over Sandra Pizarro by a 58.1% to 41.9% margin. Salinas will face conservative GOper Jeff Denham, who defeated moderate, better funded GOper Laura Perry. Denhan won with 59% vs. 41% for Perry...

☒ **34<sup>th</sup> AD** – A big hardline conservative win in this GOP AD for former Assemblyman Phil Wyman over Jim Cox of Victorville. Wyman crushed Cox by a 61.5% to 38.5% margin...

☒ **38<sup>th</sup> AD** – A win for the moderate GOP wing as Dr. Keith Richman defeated two rivals to win this open seat now held by the GOP. Richman got 44.7% of the GOP vote to best hardliner Norm Walker, who got 34.3%...

☒ **41<sup>st</sup> AD** – GOP moderate Jayne Shapiro is probably in heaven, as the Demo favorite, David Freeman, with lots of support from the Sacto/Demo establishment, got upset by Agoura Hills Coastal Comm. Fran Pavley. Pavely got 32.8% vs. 27.3% for Freeman in the Demo primary...

☒ **42<sup>nd</sup> AD** – West Hollywood Councilman Paul Koretz has been waiting a long time for this, but he finally won, defeating attorney Amanda Susskind and Dr. Dan Stone. Koretz got 43.9% of the Demo vote vs. 39.8% for Susskind. Stone got 16.3%...

☒ **43<sup>rd</sup> AD** – In this swing AD, Dario Frommer defeated attorney Paul Krekorian and John Hisserich. Frommer got 43.1% of the Demo vote. He'll face Deputy DA Craig Missakian, who won the GOP primary over Mark MacCarley. The big problem for Krekorian was that Armenian American voters are mostly GOPers and they stayed with Missakian and didn't cross over party lines...

☒ **44<sup>th</sup> AD** – Somewhat of an upset on the Demo side as Councilwoman Carol Liu upset favorite Barry Gordon, who was endorsed by labor and the CDP. Liu gets a break because Pete Wilson's candidate, Damian Jones, was defeated by abortion hardliner/Paula Jones defender Susan Carpenter-McMillan. Liu got 46.8% vs. 31.9% for Gordon, while McMillan got 44.4% to 34.1% for Jones...

☒ **51<sup>st</sup> AD** – Inglewood Councilman Jerome Horton(D) defeated 5 rivals to win the primary in this heavy Demo AD. Horton got 43% of the vote...

☒ **55<sup>th</sup> AD** – In this very Demo AD, Long Beach Councilwoman Jenny Oropeza defeated a field of 3 other Demos, including Eddie Tabash, Carl Robinson and Keith McDonald. Oropeza got 38.1% of the Demo vote...

☒ **59<sup>th</sup> AD** – The winner in his heavy GOP AD is Dennis Mountjoy, son of State Sen. Richard Mountjoy. Dennis defeated 5 other GOPers, include Walt Allen, who had lots of law & order backing, and Joann Steinmeier, a moderate who had backing from teachers. Mountjoy won with 29.6%...

☒ **61<sup>st</sup> AD** – In this swing AD which will soon be vacated by Nell Soto(D), Demo community college trustee Gloria Negrete McLeod will face Chino Councilman Dennis Yates. The GOP Assembly Caucus had backed Pomona Mayor Eddie Cortez, but he finished 3rd behind last year's GOP nominee, Bob Demallie. Yates got 35.6% vs. 32.8% for Demallie...

☒ **65<sup>th</sup> AD** – The big GOP shootout between former

Beaumont Mayor Jan Leja and businessman Russ Bogh ended with Leja winning: 51.2% vs. 37.2% for Bogh among GOP voters...

☒ **67<sup>th</sup> AD** – Another big GOP shootout between Huntington Beach Councilman Tom Harman, a moderate, and Jim Righeimer, a conservative. Harman won with 52.2% of the GOP vote. This was *get even time* for labor, because Righeimer was a co-author of Prop. 226 in 1998...

☒ **72<sup>nd</sup> AD** – Another setback for conservatives, as GOP moderate Lynn Daucher knocked off conservative Bruce Matthias by a 41.7% to 35.4% margin, with GOPer Don Bankhead in 3<sup>rd</sup> with 22.9%...

☒ **74<sup>th</sup> AD** – In this 7 candidate GOP field, Escondido businessman Mark Wyland won with 23.5%. 2<sup>nd</sup> was Encinitas Mayor James Bond with 22.3% of the GOP vote. The hardliner with most of the backing was radio talk show host Clarence Mason, who finished 4<sup>th</sup> with 15.7%...

☒ **77<sup>th</sup> AD** – This was another big win for conservatives over moderate Republicans, as La Mesa Vice Mayor Jay La Suer defeated Las Mesa school board member Penny Halgren. La Suer mashed Halgren by a 51.1% to 29.8% margin among GOP voters. La Suer will face El Cajon Deputy Mayor Todd Keegan(D) in November...

### **LOCAL CONTESTS**

◆ **L.A. County DA's Race** – To say that incumbent DA Gil Garcetti is in deep trouble is an understatement. Garcetti finished 2<sup>nd</sup> to challenger Steve Cooley, who is a chief deputy DA in the department. Cooley got 37.92% vs. 37.50% for Garcetti, with attorney Barry Groveman finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> with just 24.58%. For Garcetti not to have cracked 40% is really the story here...

◆ **Orange County** – Two contests to report. Measure F to require a 2/3rds vote to approve a new airport at El Toro passed by a 67% to 33% margin. Excellent news for opponents of a new airport at this former Marine Corps Air Station. The other contest to report is former Orange Co. DA Mike Capizzi was mashed in his bid for win a superior court post. Stephanie George got 60.2% vs. 39.1% for Capizzi. It was more payback time for O.C. hardliners...

◆ **Sacramento Mayor's Race** – There will be a runoff between Councilmembers Heather Fargo (21.7%) and Rob Kerth (20.2%). Former Sheriff and current Councilman Robbie Waters was 3<sup>rd</sup> with 18.4%...

◆ **San Diego Mayor's Race** – It will be San Diego Co. Sup. Ron Roberts vs. *deep pocketed* businessman Peter Q. Davis in the runoff to replace Susan Golding as mayor of Calif.'s 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city. Roberts finished 1<sup>st</sup> with 25.52%, followed by Davis at 15.68%. Judge Dick Murphy nearly upset Davis. Murphy got 15.56% and Councilwoman Barbara Warden got 15.11%. With all the AVs left, this contest could change, but it's a big win for Roberts, who did a huge VBM and chase program...

◆ **Seal Beach** – Voters rejected Measure M to overturn a city council decision to allow the Old Ranch Towne Center project to go forward. NO on M got 57.5% vs. 42.5% for the YES side. No on M was run by Adler Public Affairs...

### **CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Federal Appeals Court Judge Charles Wiggins died Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> at his home in Las Vegas. He was 72 and is best remembered as being a Nixon loyalist on the House Judiciary Cmt. during the Watergate impeachment hearings in 1974. R.I.P...

● Washington Mutual's 1<sup>st</sup> VP and mgr. of corporate affairs, Peter Villegas, now assumes title of mgr. of govt. relations for Calif. and Nevada...

● CA Education Sec. Gary Hart has resigned after 1 year on the job. He was Davis' first appointment in his new administration. Hart's leaves on Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> and he plans to return to teaching...

● Emma Schafer has moved her Schafer Communications & L.A. Current Affairs Forum to 700 S. Flower St., Ste. 1100, L.A. 90017. (213)892-6329...

● L.A. Co. Asst. Assessor Rick Auerbach has been named L.A. Co. Assessor, replacing Kenneth P. Hahn, who resigned. He faces voters in November...

● Alan Ziegaus has departed the pr/pa firm he helped to found in San Diego, Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger. Ziegaus resigned from his post Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>. Of the three original partners, only Gail Stoorza-Gill remains...

● The Apartment Assn., Calif. Southern Cities, Inc. has named Helen Najjar as pr mgr. for the association...